

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HEW-04 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 HA-05 L-03 OES-09 OIC-02 AF-10 ARA-11  
EA-10 NEA-10 /106 W  
-----012503 141158Z /43  
P 141145Z SEP 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6768  
USMISSION GENEVA

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GENEVA FOR DR. FORTUINE

DEPT PASS HEW/OIH

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: WHO, UNICEF, TGEN, UR, US  
SUBJECT: WHO/UNICEF ALMA ATA CONFERENCE OF PRIMARY  
HEALTH CARE

REF: GENEVA 10701

1. THE WHO/UNICEF CONFERENCE ON PRIMARY HEALTH CARE  
CONCLUDED 1800 HOURS SEPTEMBER 12 WITH  
APPROVAL OF CONFERENCE FINAL REPORT AND READING OF  
"DECLARATION OF ALMA ATA". THE CONFERENCE HELD  
RELATIVELY FEW SURPRISES, WITH CAREFUL WHO/UNICEF  
STAFF PREPARATIONS EVIDENT THROUGHOUT AND FINAL  
DOCUMENT CLOSELY FOLLOWING AN ADVANCE STAFF TEXT.

2. THE UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE GOAL OF MAKING  
SOME TYPE OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE  
BY THE YEAR 2000, WITH LDC RECOGNITION THAT EACH COUNTRY  
BEARS PRIME RESPONSIBILITY FOR BUILDING A

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HEALTH DELIVERY SYSTEM SUITED TO ITS ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL CONDITIONS, IS DOUBTLESS A MILESTONE IN INTER-  
NATIONAL HEALTH MATTERS. THE FULL SIGNIFICANCE OF  
THE "DECLARATION", HOWEVER, WILL DEPEND ON HOW RAPIDLY  
AND EFFECTIVELY INDIVIDUAL NATIONS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
ORGANIZATIONS ARE ABLE TO TRANSLATE THE GENERALITIES OF  
THE "DECLARATION" INTO ACTION PROGRAMS.

3. AS HOST NATION, THE SOVIETS PLAYED A GENERALLY USEFUL AND MODERATE ROLE DURING FORMAL CONFERENCE DELIBERATIONS. THEIR EFFORT TO FAVORABLY IMPRESS CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS WITH THE SOVIET HEALTH SYSTEM WAS EXTRAORDINARY. THE ENTIRE CITY OF ALMA ATA AND SURROUNDINGS WERE FRESHLY SCRUBBED AND STOCKED WITH MEAT AND OTHER SCARCE FOOD ITEMS (WE HAD ONE REPORT FROM A LOCAL INHABITANT THAT MUTTON SUDDENLY APPEARED ON SALE A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE START OF THE CONFERENCE, AFTER 18 MEATLESS MONTHS IN THE ALMA ATA REGION.) THE FIELD TRIPS THE SOVIETS ORGANIZED FOR CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS DURING THE SEPTEMBER 9 - 10 WEEKEND TO URBAN AND RURAL KAZAKHSTAN AND UZBEKISTAN FEATURED SOVIET PHYSICIANS AND OTHER HEALTH PERSONNEL IN IMMACULATE UNIFORMS AND SURROUNDINGS RECITING THE USUAL STOCK PHRASES IN PRAISE OF THE SOVIET SYSTEM. OVERSTAGING, AND LACK OF VISIBLE PATIENTS, DETRACTED FROM WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN AN IMPRESSIVE SHOW.

4. SENATOR KENNEDY'S ADDRESS DELIVERED TO THE PLENARY THE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 6 ATTRACTED WIDE ATTENTION, AND BROUGHT WARM RESPONSE FROM THE GALLERIES PACKED WITH LOCAL SOVIETS. HUNDREDS OF SOVIETS GATHERED IN THE SQUARE FACING THE CONFERENCE HALL TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THE SENATOR'S DEPARTURE.

5. THE CONFERENCE, IN CONTRAST TO RECENT WORLD HEALTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSEMBLIES, WAS RELATIVELY FREE OF EXTRANEIOUS POLITICAL DEBATE. SOVIET HEALTH MINISTER PETROVSKY ADROITLY HANDLED HIS DUTIES AS PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE AND ASSISTED IN THE GENERAL MOVE FOR CONSENSUS. THE ONLY POLITICAL FLAP WAS CREATED BY THE SWAPO DELEGATE IN THE CLOSING HOURS OF THE CONFERENCE, WHO REQUESTED THAT "LIBERATION MOVEMENTS" BE INSERTED IN A LISTING OF GROUPS SUPPORTING HEALTH CARE IN THE SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE. A SHARP EXCHANGE ENSUED WITH ALGERIA, ZAMBIA, AFGHANISTAN, MOZAMBIQUE, GDR AND THE PLO REGISTERING SUPPORT FOR THE SWAPO PROPOSAL AND THE FRG, CANADA, AUSTRALIA, FRANCE, GUATEMALA, AND COSTA RICA NOTING OPPOSITION. THE SUGGESTION WAS REFERRED TO THE SECRETARIAT TO WORK OUT APPROPRIATE WORDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE FINAL CONFERENCE REPORT. NOTWITHSTANDING THE HEAVY MAJORITY OF LDCS PARTICIPATING, TOGETHER WITH SWAPO AND THE PLO, THE FINAL CONFERENCE DOCUMENT WAS MODERATE IN TONE. THE RACISM-ZIONISM ISSUE WHICH HAD PLAGUED PREVIOUS WHO CONFERENCES WAS NOT RAISED. GARRISON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HEALTH, MEDICAL CARE, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 sep 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978MOSCOW22011  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780373-0912  
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**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 GENEVA 10701  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1434011  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** WHO/UNICEF ALMA ATA CONFERENCE OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE  
**TAGS:** TGEN, UR, US, WHO, UNICEF  
**To:** STATE GENEVA  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/a5132250-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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